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**FIGHT—**

# **Contagious Abortion in Cattle**

**—on your farm  
—in your district**

Do your part to save \$20,000,000 loss in  
dead calves and sterile cows

**Preventable—Controllable**

Isolate affected animals—Treat aborting  
cows—Disinfect bulls—Clean  
up premises

**Good Business  
For Cattle Owners**

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

## A CAMPAIGN AGAINST ABORTION HAS ALREADY BEGUN.

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The Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture is at work in a determined effort to devise a method of treatment which will be effective in controlling this great scourge.

Are you doing your part?

### YOU MUST HELP.

It is impossible to reach all infected herds, nor are there sufficient funds available to provide individual attention. But it is the aim to suggest methods for combating the disease, and ways to protect your herd and your district. But you yourself must put these measures into effect.

Write to your State Experiment Station, not only to ask for aid, but to offer your assistance for a systematic campaign to control this disease.

### “IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH.”

If you do not belong to some dairymen's or cattlemen's association, then join one, and see that your association gives proper attention to this serious matter. It is only by united action that such a widespread disease can be suppressed. Abortion is fast becoming the most destructive of all animal diseases. It hits animal husbandry at its very source. If the offspring are killed, and the bovine species can not reproduce its kind, we get neither beef nor milk. The necessity is plain for vigorous action to prevent such a calamity.

### DO YOU REALIZE THE DANGER?

Abortion is insidious. It creeps in like a thief in the night, and it is not always an easy thing to trace. New animals, whether male or female, purchased from an affected herd, or a cow served by a neighbor's bull which has become affected, or contact with diseased animals in other ways, may be the means of introducing the disease. Take warning, therefore, and protect your herd from this destructive disease.

Is your herd already affected? If so, you have some work ahead of you. But don't quit on that account. Abortion has been and can be controlled by thorough and intelligent treatment. It is not a lazy man's job, but by careful attention to details of sanitation and hygiene, and the control of breeding, the disease can be overcome.

Don't waste your energies on unprofitable animals. Send the boarders to the butcher, then give your attention to the good cows. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Clean up the stable, put in windows and let the sun shine in, then give a liberal coating of white-wash, so that you can see if there is any dirt. Drain the barnyard and make everything clean and sanitary.

### CLEAN AND DISINFECT STABLE, ETC.

Chemical disinfectants are used to good advantage in controlling disease and the following directions for their use are given:

1. Sweep ceilings, side walls, stall partitions, floors, and other surfaces until free from cobwebs and dust.
2. Remove all accumulations of filth by scraping, and if woodwork has become decayed, porous, or absorbent, it should be removed, burned, and replaced with new material.
3. If floor is of earth, remove 4 inches from the surface, and in places where it shows staining with urine a sufficient depth should be removed to expose fresh earth. All earth removed should be replaced with earth from an uncontaminated source, or a new floor of concrete may be laid, which is very durable and easily cleaned.
4. The entire interior of the stable, especially the feeding troughs and drains, as well as milking stools and all other implements, should be saturated with a disinfectant, as cresol compound (U. S. P.), or carbolic acid, 6 ounces to every gallon of water in each case. After this has dried, the stalls, walls, and ceilings may be covered with white-wash (lime wash), to each gallon of which should be added 4 ounces of chlorid of lime.
5. All refuse and material from stable and barnyard should be removed to a place not accessible to cattle or hogs. The manure should be spread on fields and turned under. In addition, the yards should be disinfected by sprinkling liberally with a solution of copper sulphate, 5 ounces to a gallon of water.

The best method of applying the disinfectant and the lime wash is by means of a strong spray pump, such as used by orchardists.

This method is efficient in disinfection against most of the contagious and infectious diseases of animals, and should be applied immediately following any outbreak, and, as a matter of precaution, it may be used once or twice yearly.

### TREATMENT OF ANIMALS.

The following is an outline of a method of treating the animals in an infected herd:

## DISINFECTING THE BULL.

To prevent the bull from carrying the infection from a diseased cow to a healthy one, first clip the tuft of long hair from the opening of the sheath, then disinfect the penis and sheath with a solution of one-half per cent of cresol compound, lysol, or 1 per cent carbolic acid (see note A), or 1 to 1,000 potassium permanganate in warm water. The only apparatus necessary is a soft rubber tube  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch in diameter and 5 feet long, with a large funnel attached to one end; or an ordinary fountain syringe and tube would serve the purpose. The tube should be inserted into the sheath and the foreskin held with the hand to prevent the immediate escape of the fluid. Elevate the funnel as high as possible, and pour in the fluid until the preputial sac is filled. In addition to this, the hair of the belly and inner sides of the thighs should be sponged with an antiseptic of twice the strength of the irrigating solution. This disinfection should invariably precede and follow every service.

## TREATMENT OF THE COW.

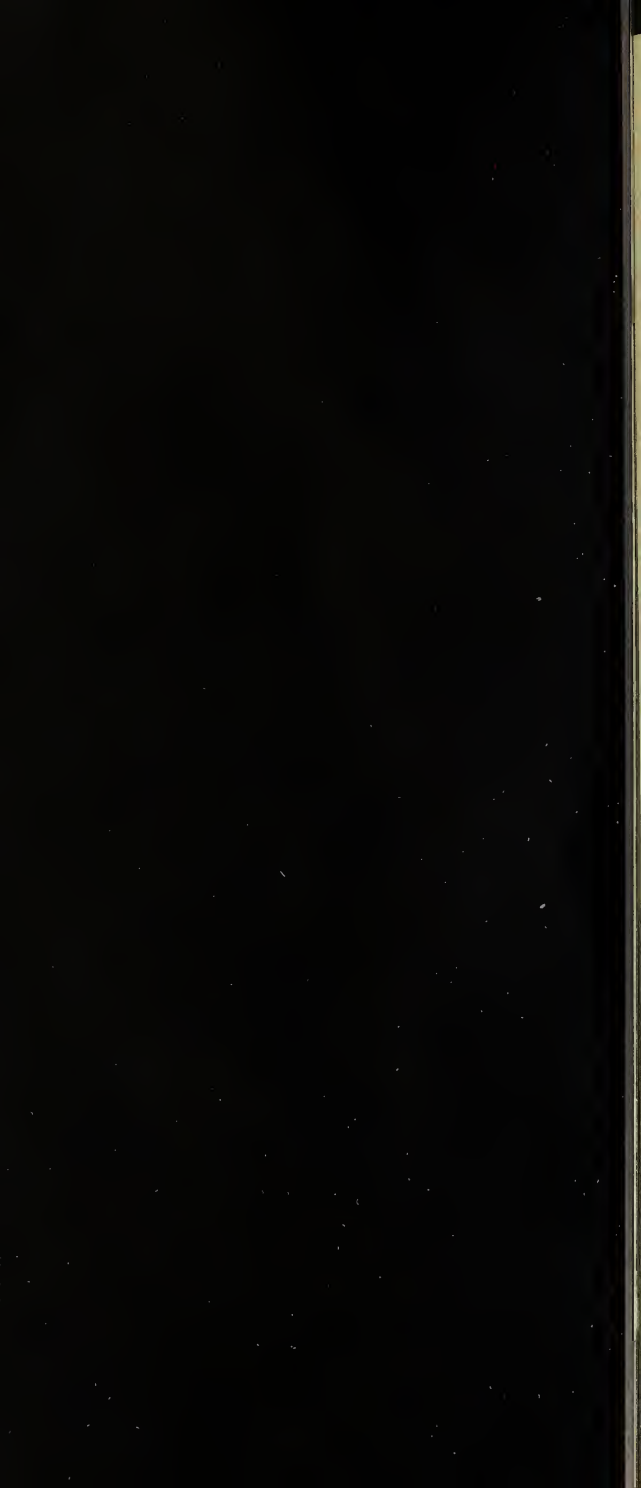
Isolate the aborting cow. The germs of the disease are contained in the discharge, and in the dead fetus and its membranes. Gather these up and bury or burn them and disinfect the stall thoroughly. Don't neglect this cow. By thorough treatment you can restore her to usefulness and prevent sterility.

More than half the cows abort but once, so don't sell your cow because she aborts.

The uterus should be irrigated daily with one of the antiseptics mentioned for the bull, using the same apparatus, and irrigation should be continued until discharge ceases. If large numbers of animals are to be treated, a bucket can be fitted with a small faucet to which the tube is attached. This can be suspended from the ceiling, or from the rail of the litter carrier. Lugol's solution, in a strength of 2 per cent (see note B) has been found to be desirable as a uterine douche. It is not permitted to remain in the uterus, but is flushed out with salt solution. (See note C.)

The action of the antiseptic should be noted, and if it causes straining or irritates the tender membranes of the genital organs, a less irritating solution should be used. In addition, the external genitals, root of tail, escutcheon, etc., should be sponged daily with a solution twice as strong as that used for irrigation, and this latter treatment should be given the nonaborters as well. Should the preliminary symptoms of abortion be detected, the animal should be removed from the herd and treated as above.







## NOTES.

Note A.—Two tablespoonfuls of fluid equal 1 ounce, therefore, this amount of antiseptic added to 6 pints of boiled water will make approximately a 1 per cent solution.

Note B.—Lugol's solution of iodine is compounded as follows: Iodine 5 parts, potassium iodide 10 parts, and boiled water to make 100 parts. Two parts of this compound in 100 parts of boiled water make a solution suitable for uterine irrigation. Lugol's solution can be purchased from your druggist.

Note C.—A 1 per cent solution of common salt in boiled water at body temperature makes a suitable irrigating fluid. A heaping tablespoonful of dry salt weighs approximately 1 ounce, and this amount in 1 gallon of boiled water gives the proper strength.

## RETENTION OF AFTERBIRTH.

The retention of the afterbirth is a serious matter. It should not be forcibly removed, as the lining membranes of the uterus would be torn and a point of entry thus provided for the germs which cause blood poisoning. The uterus is very susceptible to this form of infection at such times, and injury should be carefully avoided. Clumsy and forceful manipulation of the parts may cause infection and death of the animal. The best practice is to flush the uterus twice daily with a mild antiseptic to prevent the accumulation and absorption of poisonous product and allow the membranes to come away of themselves. In all these manipulations, hands and utensils should first be thoroughly disinfected. In fact so much special knowledge and operative skill is required that a competent veterinarian should be employed to instruct the owner before these operations are undertaken.

After abortion, breeding should not again be attempted within two months, or until the discharge shall have ceased, as the uterus would not be normal and the animal either would not conceive or would abort again in a short time.

Sterility, weakling calves, retained afterbirth, white scours, and calf pneumonia frequently accompany abortion. The measures recommended will also assist in overcoming these complications.

It should be understood that no effective cure for the disease has yet been found. Do not depend on drugs and proprietary remedies.

Let us repeat. Give this matter your earnest attention. Join your neighbors, your State, and the country in fighting this plague, and we will soon have it under control.

Write the Department of Agriculture for Farmers' Bulletin, which gives details of the disease and its prevention and treatment.

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